

Pilgrim's Progress May 5, 2015 – Vol. 57 No. 5

FROM THE



PASTOR

On April 30, the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association (LICA) organized a Town-Wide Conversation on Race and Justice. I was part of the small group that planned the event alongside leaders from Hancock Church, Temple Isaiah, Christ Revolution Church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, and the Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland. It always strikes me that this is who you would see listed on paper. Yet I would verbalize our small group as simply Pam, Jill, Brent, Susan, Tahir, and me—it's wonderful to have good, collegial relationships through LICA to make events like this happen!

Behind the scenes, our small group met several times, exchanged too many e-mails to count, and implemented our various tasks and responsibilities to the best of our ability. One never knows what the turn-out will be for an event like this one. We noted that this is a hard conversation, asking ourselves if folks would even be willing to have it. Lexington is a busy, overly committed community, would folks take the time to come out on a weeknight to listen and talk? We were thrilled to see a standing-room only crowd at the Depot. And to hear from leaders in Lexington about what we're doing now to advocate for diversity and speak up for racial justice, and what we can do better in the future. There were well over 100 people present when we broke up into small groups to find out why people came in the first place and where we go next as a community. Thank you to those of you who could attend!

On Sunday May 3, I attended the Metropolitan Boston Association's (MBA) Spring Meeting where the focus of our time together was on anti-racism work happening throughout the MBA. Our hope on the Association level is to develop the capacity to more consistently and effectively work to end racism. We heard stories from Hope Central Church, the organizers of the Black Lives Matter Rally here in Lexington from Hancock Church (Jamie and Ashley Davis), and Lani Peterson who heads up the Public Voice Project of City Mission Society. Our Association Minister, Rev. Wendy Vander Hart gave us a piercing question she picked up along the way as she has tried to focus on racial justice: "What would you do if you were brave?"

With all of this wonderful work happening in LICA and throughout the MBA, we can ALL be part of these important conversations about racial justice and anti-racism work. We can ALL be brave as we stand as Christians to show forth Christ's love for all people. I will keep advertising and encouraging you to attend these social justice events as what we learn can open up our minds and hearts and inspire us to action. More work will likely come from the LICA Conversation on Race specifically, and I'm thrilled to remain a part of the conversation. It would be wonderful for our congregation to keep engaging on issues of social justice in our community and in the world. As Dr. King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

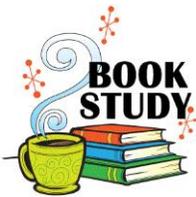
**SAVE THE DATE (SUNDAY JUNE 7 AT 11:40 AM):
PRESENTATION ON FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY
(AKA what I have learned so far in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative!)**

On Sunday June 7 immediately following worship, grab your coffee and snacks and head downstairs to Fellowship Hall to learn about Family Systems Theory.

What's Family Systems Theory? It's a theory of human behavior that views the family as an emotional unit and uses systems thinking to describe the complicated interactions of the unit. In a nutshell, Family Systems Theory helps us to understand ourselves as part of our families, arguing that we can't understand who we are in isolation from one another anyway! Our families, churches, workplaces, organizations, and even society as a whole can be understood by looking at situations through the Family Systems lens. And it's very interesting to do so!

Year One of the NGLI has been Family Systems Theory—it's what we learned when I was in Carefree, Arizona in January. Looking forward to sharing more with you on June 7!

Lauren



**BOOK STUDY: BART EHRMAN'S HOW JESUS BECAME GOD:
THE EXALTATION OF A JEWISH PREACHER FROM GALILEE**

Lauren's final Adult Education Book Study for this program year will be held on **Thursday May 14 at 11 AM**. We'll discuss Bart Ehrman's book *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee*.

Bart Ehrman is a Biblical scholar who teaches at UNC Chapel Hill. He wrote *How Jesus Became God* for secular audiences interested in the history of the early faith and for Christian believers. A display copy is on the Literature Table for those who may want to see this book in more detail. Hope to see you on **Thursday May 14 at 11 AM!**

Lauren

THANK YOU TO MELISSA KELLY: SUNDAY MAY 31!

Sunday May 31 will be Melissa Kelly's last day as Pilgrim's Nursery Supervisor. Melissa has provided childcare for Pilgrim's infants and toddlers since 1997—and is the longest serving staff member we currently have at our church!

As most of you know, Melissa works as a full-time departmental administrator at Boston University School of Medicine and is a part-time student at Boston University. Melissa also competes as an amateur boxer, and serves as an amateur and professional boxing official. She has stayed with us for many years despite her busy schedule! We will be sending Melissa off in style on May 31 and hope that you will join us as we give thanks for her years of service.



FROM LISA HULBERT

It is crazy to think that my first program year here at Pilgrim is coming to a close. As we look ahead to next year I am excited about the new ideas and energy surrounding the planning. As we prepare to end the year we are working hard to plan a Children's Sunday Service that reflects the hard work of both our students and teachers. The service will be led by our Church School students. If your family will not be present for worship on May 17 please let me know.

In addition we would like to hold a parent meeting of the incoming 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students. If your child will be in those grades as of September 1, 2015 please join us on May 3rd following worship. We will meet in lower fellowship hall to discuss the great opportunities open to this age group.

The Christian Education and Youth Committee has also spent much of this year focused on the needs of current Pilgrim families as well as expanding our efforts outside our walls. In the beginning of April we hosted an open parent's forum. If you were unable to make it but would like your voice heard please fill out the questionnaire below and return it to me. Your input is vital to making Pilgrim's Church School and Youth offerings a success.

Parent Forum Questionnaire

- 1) Is it important to you that your children attend Church School regularly?
- 2) If you are not able to attend Church School regularly but would like them to, what is the reason?
 - no time
 - sports or other commitments
 - family issues
 - too boring or too complex (curriculum)
 - other
- 3) What are the strengths of the Church School?
- 4) Challenges or opportunity areas?
- 5) What is the most important thing you would like your child to learn from attending Church School?
- 6) Would you like your child to be able to worship during the entire service with your family?
- 7) If Church School were offered before worship, would you attend?
- 8) If Adult Education were offered before worship, would you attend?

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY IS MAY 17!

Participants please plan to arrive by 9:45.
Thank you.





FROM DAN SCHMIDT...

As we near the end of the program year, I wanted to offer a timeline of when our musicians will be participating in worship. The choirs and bells will be done with their support in worship on May 31. I hope that you will consider participating in one of these opportunities. The rehearsal time needed is minimal and everything is rehearsed on any given Sunday starting at 9:30am. This is more than enough time to learn the music and be ready for worship.

The Choir will sing on May 10 and 31, the Children's Choir will sing on May 17 and the Hand Bells will play on May 24. Additionally, if you want to perform as an individual or small group in voice or instruments, please let me know. June is Special Music Month. There are many openings to perform and I am available to accompany on piano or organ as needed. We have 3 Sundays available for you to choose from and you, your child/family can pick to perform the prelude, special music (before children's message) offertory or postlude. This is a great opportunity to share your talents with the congregation before we move to the Summer Worship Schedule. If you have questions or would like to discuss how you can participate, please see me before or after worship or send an email: Daniel.schmidt@pilgrimcongregational.org.

JUNE 14, 2015 – GOSPEL MUSIC SUNDAY



As part of the Special Music Month, we will be having a Gospel Music Sunday. The hymns, prelude, postlude and anthem will all be Gospel Music. If you'd like to participate in the Gospel Choir anthem, we will run through the piece on June 7 after worship (no more than 30 minutes) as well as starting at 9:30am on June 14. If you would like to assist in organizing this service, please see me after worship or send me an email: Daniel.schmidt@pilgrimcongregational.org. I hope you will consider participating in the choir for this special service!

Please note that Lauren will be out of town from Thursday May 7-Monday May 11.

Rev. Jill Olds will be our Guest Preacher on Sunday May 10 (Mother's Day.)

ALL CHURCH BRUNCH - MAY 17TH

1. Are you hungry after Worship?
2. Are you looking for a change from our usual coffee hour fare?
3. And can the men of Pilgrim really cook?

If you answered “yes” to the first two questions (and you want to know the answer to the third!), then join us for Brunch on **Sunday, May 17th**, immediately following Worship. If you would like info or to help, contact Joe Carabbio @ joeicu2@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there!



Dear Pilgrims,

We have the blessing of having several newer families attending worship! Remembering back to when we were the newbies, it was always so helpful when folks wore their name tags as we got to know people. And, as someone whose memory isn't what it used to be, it's still helpful!

Some people have yet to get their name tags, some have lost theirs along the way and some have just grown lax about wearing them. No worries! If you don't have a name tag please email Diane at admin@pilgrimcongregational.org and she will make one for you! You can keep it on the boards in the Narthex. Then all we need to do is wear them!

Peace and thanks,

Beth Kurth
 Vitality Committee Co-Chair



May 10		Stevens	Taylor
May 17		All-Church Brunch	Vitality Committee
May 24		Council	
May 31		Rammacciotti-Mahiou	
June 7	Communion	DeSanto	LoBuglio/Royer
June 14			



Come to the book sale on **Saturday, May 9 from 9 – 4**. Spread the word! All proceeds go to help fund our various project in Flores, Honduras. For info, please contact Sandra Gardiner at sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.

STRONG VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed for a short time on 2 separate days:

Saturday, May 9th from 4pm to 5 pm to move tables from Pilgrim Hall to the furnace room. and also on **Sunday, May 10th from 12:30pm to 1pm** to finish moving tables from Pilgrim Hall to the furnace room. We will also be boxing up the last of the books that are left in Pilgrim Hall on Sunday May 10th. If you can help on either day, please email Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com

To access the calendar for Pilgrim Church, please click [here](#). Thank you.



DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Please note that the deadline for the June issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be **May 26**. This will be the last issue until September. Thank you!



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

He's no longer a number...he's more than a name...he started as a patient...and now he's one of "our" kids. The statistics are staggering - more than 80% of Hondurans do not have health insurance. Three years and five months ago we first heard the name "Ostin" and learned he was in need of medical attention. At first we helped from a distance...communicating with doctors in San Pedro Sula and sending money to cover the visits and transportation. Next, we were able to meet him and his family in person. We contacted doctors at prestigious hospitals in Boston, listened to their advice about protocol for treatment and forwarded that information on to the doctors in Honduras.

We continued to visit Ostin, reassuring his parents we were still committed to helping. Many months would pass, and eventually we helped obtain a drug from Japan which the doctors in Honduras were able to inject into Ostin. We returned to Honduras and accompanied Ostin and his mother to medical appointments. Initially, the drug seemed to work and Ostin was showing improvement. Months would pass, more injections would be given, and then we would return for another visit. At last, the doctors felt they had done all they could do for Ostin and he would need to go to the States for more treatment.

Many more months passed as we coordinated doctors, hospitals, financing, and visas. Ostin arrived here 10 weeks ago and since then has undergone two big surgeries and other procedures. Once a child moves into your home, he/she is no longer a patient...he/she becomes one of your own. We know his fears, what makes him happy, his favorite foods, the toys he likes to play with. Sometimes it's a slow process, other times it's more immediate, but they crawl into your heart.

Having a child living with a serious medical condition is extremely stressful. We try focusing on one medical appointment or procedure to the next, but then there are unpredictable setbacks in his health or unforeseen issues with financing and the feelings of frustration and disappointment escalate.

Loving a child who has no health insurance and has one opportunity to receive medical treatment before returning to his life in poverty adds a whole new dimension...especially when you feel like you're his voice.

Emily Collins



YOU DESERVE RESPECT

Please join us for a free public talk **TONIGHT, Tuesday, May 5th** - You Deserve Respect," by Heloisa Gelber Rivas, CSB. *"You deserve respect. Everybody does. Let's find that out."* Heloisa Gelber Rivas will share ideas about the spiritual basis for mutual respect among all people. You and your friends are warmly invited to this important discussion titled **"You deserve respect."** It will take place on **Tuesday, May 5th, from 7 to 8 pm** at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420. The speaker asks, "What do we see in a friend, an acquaintance, someone we just met? How important, at all times, to know ourselves, know who we really are as individuals in God's vast creation." This talk explores the spiritual basis for mutual respect among all people.

Complementing the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association's town-wide conversation about race, this talk will explore how Christian Science helps individuals to relate harmoniously to others from different backgrounds, even when life circumstances seem conflictive and relationships seem strained. Raised in a multilingual Brazilian family, Heloisa speaks six languages. After earning a degree in sociology and politics at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, she worked as a translator and travelled extensively. She is now a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science and co-manager of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. Sharing ideas about prayer and healing, Heloisa is impelled by a deep desire to help mankind.



This talk is sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Lexington.



Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Faiths Uniting in Social Action Since 1966

Please join us for...

**CMM's 49th Annual Dinner:
"The Role of Religion in Promoting Justice For All"**

"The Role of Religion in Promoting Justice for All" is the theme of the **May 7th** Annual Dinner of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries at **First Church, 11 Garden Street in Cambridge, at 6:30 pm**. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Jonathan L. Walton, Minister of Harvard's Memorial Church. All are invited to the dinner which will feature a performance by the Boston Children's Chorus. We hope to see you there!

****Come at 6pm for early registration**** or register online at: cmm49thannualdinner.eventbrite.com. For information, please go to CMM's website: <http://www.coopmet.org>.



**Pilgrim Nursery School is currently enrolling for
the 2015-2016 school year!**

**Pilgrim Nursery School encourages children to be inventive,
curious & self-confident.**

**We offer warm, professional teachers, small classroom sizes,
creative & innovative curriculum including Yoga, large indoor
gross motor room & a safe, well-equipped playground in a
quiet residential neighborhood.**

**Come in for a visit to see our classrooms and meet our
amazing teachers!**

**Call Leslie Beatrice, our Director, for more information:
781-861-8853**

www.pilgrimnurseyschool.org